

SUN JUL 1 1990

Nelson - visit to Bay Area

MANDELA NOTEBOOK



Pat Greenhouse/The Tribune

Nelson, Winnie Mandela at Hyatt Regency news conference.

Native Americans anxious for return

Several Native Americans were delighted that Mandela wants to return to the United States in October to meet with tribal leaders. Wayne Roberson, a Choctaw Indian, said he hopes Mandela will address the high infant mortality rate among Native Americans, and "the economic issues that suppress Indians."

Albert Galvin, an Ohlone Indian, said Mandela might be the agent to alert people about Indian culture.

And Allogan Slagle of the Keetowah tribe said Mandela recognizes "that what is happening in South Africa is not isolated. It's high time people have connected human rights around the world."

Berkeley artist designed Wilson gift

"The Mother Madonna," a 40-inch bronze sculpture, was selected by Mayor Lionel Wilson's office as the mayor's formal gift to Nelson Mandela.

Designed by Berkeley artist Elizabeth Dante and purchased through the Cassandra Kersting Gallery in Old Oakland, "Mother Madonna" is a stylized portrait of a Third World woman balancing baskets on her head and holding a small child.

The selection of her artwork for the South African leader is "a dream come true," said Dante, who added that Mandela has been "my idol" for 15 years.

Graham employee kept security too tight

How tight was security at the Coliseum? So tight that at one point an employee for Bill Graham, the rock concert promoter who produced the event, tried to keep a member of the U.S. State Department from escorting press photographers to the stage.

One no-show 'over-TV'd on Mandela

Although it may not seem possible to those who had counted the days to the Mandelas' arrival, there were at least a couple of people in Oakland yesterday who were unimpressed.

Herb Horwitz of Alameda and his brother-in-law Sam Davidson of San Diego were waiting for their wives to finish shopping at Jack London Square as they rested on a bench.

Although Horwitz said he thought Mandela was "doing good" he didn't care to attend his rally or watch it on television. "I got over-TV'd on Mandela. He's on more than Howdy Doody."

Anniversary pair at Hyatt hoped for sighting

Jacqueline and Shelton Welch had booked a room in the Oakland Hyatt to celebrate their third wedding anniversary. They had no idea Mandela would be there also. Although the couple recognized their chances of seeing the deputy president of the African National Congress were slight, they were hopeful.

"It's very exciting just to see the people setting up the banquet," she said.

— Compiled by The Tribune staff

Mandela

SUN JUL 1 1990

By Robert J. Lopez
and Judy Ronningen
The Tribune

JSK

For several thousand people hoping to see Nelson and Winnie Mandela yesterday afternoon, excitement turned to disappointment when they found out the couple had left the Bay Area early because of a scheduling error.

The level of disappointment depended on whether shocked ticket holders had paid \$100 for a sit-down dinner at the Oakland Convention Center or \$5 for a celebration honoring his wife in Berkeley.

"This is extremely disappointing," said Carl Saucedo of Hayward, who was standing in line for a refund on his \$100 dinner ticket in the lobby of the Oakland Hyatt Regency Hotel.

"This isn't right. They should have told us."

Roger Wilkins, national coordinator of the Mandela tour, said tour officials realized Thursday morning that the anti-apartheid leader was due in Ireland early today.

But Gloria Carson, the coordinator for the dinner, said local organizers weren't told until yesterday that the Mandelas would cut short their visit.

For Erwin Maeda of Monterey, the scheduling snafu meant more than the \$100 she felt she ~~had lost by not being able to see~~ Mandela.

"This was my vacation," she said, waving her ticket. "I paid \$115 for my room here the past three nights. The disappointment is so great that I can't eat dinner."

Carson said only about 15 to 20 people asked for refunds.

Eleanor Johnson, who arrived yesterday at 2 a.m. from Seattle, said she was disappointed but hoped one day she would have another chance to see Mandela.

"The idea that the man came here and received all this adulation and pride is great," said Johnson, slowly sipping a scotch and water in the hotel bar. "This is a very historic day for everybody."

At a pre-dinner reception where tickets went for up to \$2,500, reaction was mixed.

"Mandela just took the check and ran," griped one man.

At the Berkeley Community Theater, support for women's solidarity helped smooth over the dismay at not seeing Winnie Mandela.

Organizers of the "Celebration of South African Women" didn't break the news that she was a no-show until everyone was seated.

There were scattered cries of "No!" but the 3,000-seat auditorium was virtually full and no one walked out.

"Yes, we are sad," organizer Myesha Jenkin said. "But we also want to make clear it was our intention from the beginning that we were in support of (all)

South African women."

That was the prevailing attitude in the audience, which was mostly female — women in traditional African dress, teenagers in Mandela T-shirts, groups of lesbians, mothers with their little girls in lacy dresses and patent-leather shoes.

"To be alive at the same time as such a great being is alive is inspiring — to be so close to where they are, physically," said her friend, Clairemarut Evasco of Oakland.

Elizabeth Gordon of Oakland got out of her sickbed to see Winnie Mandela. "I feel like she rep-

resents all the women," she said.

But she and her sister Elaine Kelley decided to stay to show their support for worldwide freedom struggles.

Some of the most disappointed people had passed up Nelson Mandela's appearance at the Oakland Coliseum to see his wife.

Aloma Arzu of San Francisco said she had wanted to hear what Winnie Mandela had to say about press reports that her bodyguards murdered a young activist.

Patricia Moore said she worked at the Berkeley Commu-

nity Theater until 3 a.m. yesterday preparing for Mandela.

"We spent nine hours, washing and waxing these floors, and she isn't *here*?" she exclaimed.

Speakers at the event included writers Angela Davis — who energized the crowd by crying "Amandla! (Power!) Amandla!" — and Alice Walker. The crowd saved one of its loudest ovations for a group of local women — from Kendra Alexander of the Communist Party to Sandra Yates of the Bay Area Free South Africa movement — who have worked against apartheid for decades.

Conflict nearly canceled Mandelas' visit here

SUN JUL 1 1990

By Benny Evangelista
The Tribune

A last-minute scheduling conflict not only curtailed Nelson and Winnie Mandela's Bay Area visit, but nearly canceled it altogether, if not for the intervention of U.S.

Rep. Ron V. Dellums.

Adding to the confusion, a national tour organizer said representatives from the local reception committee knew of the schedule changes late Friday night. And yesterday morning's editions of The

New York Times said Mandela would be leaving earlier than originally planned.

But local committee members said they did not know about the schedule changes

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until yesterday afternoon.

Roger Wilkins, national coordinator of the grueling 12-day, eight-city tour, said he learned while flying with Mandela from Miami to Detroit Thursday morning that the African National Congress had scheduled Mandela to meet with Prime Minister Charles Haughey of Ireland today.

The meeting was planned for some time, but no one told American tour organizers of the possible conflict, Wilkins said.

"It was stunning, unbelievable. We never knew (until Thursday) that they had arranged that," he said.

Despite earlier reports that Mandela would cancel his Oakland stopover because of fatigue,

Wilkins assured reporters that the former semi-pro boxer was in good health.

"He looks as fresh today as the first day of his tour," Wilkins said.

The ANC wanted to cancel the Eastbay stop and have Mandela leave yesterday directly for Dublin, Ireland.

But Wilkins said he and Dellums, D-Oakland, fought to keep the visit to the birthplace of the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

Wilkins credited Dellums' "intervention" with swinging the argument in Oakland's favor, saving part of the Eastbay tour.

Mandela had to cancel scheduled appearances at a VIP reception atop the Oakland Hyatt Regency and a \$100-a-plate din-

ner at the Hyatt and Oakland Convention Center. Winnie Mandela had to cancel her scheduled appearance at the Berkeley Community Theater.

Wilkins said two Northern California Mandela reception committee members were in his room Friday when he learned of the schedule changes.

Rumors about such a change were rampant all day Friday, but local organizers continued to insist that they had not been told of a change although a press release issued by coordinator Sandre Swanson Friday night guaranteed only the rally.

Reporters traveling with the Mandela party were told of the change yesterday morning, but most reacted nonchalantly to

what had become a common occurrence during the tour.

"The American organizers deeply regret the disappointment that this schedule change is going to cause in Oakland," Wilkins said as the entourage flew toward Oakland International Airport.

Another roadblock that could have scuttled even the Coliseum rally was knocked down by luck.

For Mandela to stay long enough for the rally, he needed a new plane capable of flying to Dublin. A 16-passenger private jet became available only after its scheduled flight to Taiwan was canceled.

— *Tribune staff writer Robert J. Lopez contributed to this report.*

Mandela brings power to an Oakland afternoon

SUN JUL 1 1990



**Brenda
Payton**

Visit to Bay Area

All of the sudden he was there. Walking slowly down the stairs from the airplane, his wife Winnie by his side, a genuine smile spreading across the face that for 27 years had not been seen or photographed. Nelson Mandela stepped onto the ground in Oakland and it seemed like he was coming home.

The well-wishers who had waited giddily for his arrival cheered, but the response was somewhat reserved, as if the actual presence of the man had subdued them. Nelson Mandela, his gray hair thick, his

lean frame erect, standing before us in the bright sun of a clear Oakland day. An electric emotion surged through the crowd.

"I don't think I've ever been to an event of this magni-

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ude," a Bay Area elected official had commented as we rode the bus to the airport. We were part of a community delegation welcoming the Mandelas.

A little girl with her hair freshly braided in an intricate pattern cradled a huge bouquet of roses and lilies. "These are for Mr. Mandela. Or Mrs. Mandela, Yes, Mrs. Mandela I think."

A group of South African exiles began singing freedom songs and the accompanying stomp rocked the bus. The emotion was building.

"The feeling is beyond description," said Bonai Busika as we waited at the airport. Busika, a political exile, has not been to South Africa since he left in 1975. "I feel so elated. I feel renewed, reborn. A few years ago, I thought the man would never see here. But we never lost hope."

Four-year-old Themba, which means hope in Zulu, and 5-year-old Vuyo, which means happiness in Xhosa, played Zorro with the sticks of their African National Congress flags.

"We are coming to see this

one, Vuyo ordered, pointing to Mandela's picture on his badge. "He is an African leader who went to jail for freedom."

After Mandela arrived, Vuyo and Themba would shake his hand as he moved down the official greeting line, taking the time to speak to each person. A little girl announced that she also shook his hand. As he gave a short speech, she shouted out, "Mommy, Mandela," pointing to the podium.

"I feel like an old battery that has been recharged," he told the crowd. In addition to courage, integrity, dedication and strength, Mandela possesses an infectious charm. "We admire you. We respect you. And above all, we love you."

As he left, he faced the crowd that was not part of the official line, walking toward us as if he were greeting old friends, as if he might give us a hug. Just before the extended hands touched his, a security agent guided him back toward the car and on to the rally.

The Coliseum was packed and the sun was hot. Throngs of people squeezed by each other as

they inched toward their seats and yet no one seemed to mind being bumped or pushed. For a few hours the incredibly mixed and diverse crowd of almost 60,000 was unified. Drawn by the power of the man and the singularity of his mission. In the hot sun they waited.

U.S. Congressman Ron Dellums, who introduced the sanctions bill in Congress long ago, was greeted with cheers. In a fiery introduction speech that recalled another time, he lauded the Bay Area's history of anti-apartheid activism. He said simply, "We made history."

Mandela took the podium and 60,000 people jumped to their feet and shouted, waving ribbons in the colors of the ANC flag. The floor of the Coliseum turned to a rippling yellow, black and green sea and a heat of excitement rose from the crowd. A woman in front of me sat silently and cried.

Mandela spoke about the continued injustices in South Africa, the inadequacy of the non-white schools, the inferior health care, the threat of white vigilantes. And he talked about the injus-

tices in the U.S. against the Native Americans. "Together we must rekindle the spirit of strength and unity," he said.

For those moments, for a half hour in the bright sun of a Saturday afternoon, Oakland looked like it could do anything, change anything, solve any problem. Mandela had come to thank the Bay Area for its support and urge its continued fight against apartheid. But he brought something much larger than thanks, he brought hope and resolve, the possibility of our own power and ability to take our destinies in hand.

And then it was over. Mandela finished his speech and we sang "Nkosi Sikeleli Africa," the ANC anthem.

People filed out of the Coliseum, preparing for the long, crowded walk out, looking back over their shoulders. Maybe he was going to come back on stage. Others remained at their seats.

No one was ready to break the spell of power that had electrified one Saturday afternoon in Oakland.

Visit ful

SUN JUL 1 1990

By Brian Johns
The Tribune

Mandela, Nelson

The Lion of South Africa brought the Bay Area to its feet yesterday.

"My 20-year-old son told me he was sorry he had never seen (Martin Luther) King or Malcolm (X), so it's a great pleasure to see a real hero in person," Clydine James said on the floor of the Oakland Coliseum.

At the start of his tour through the United States 12 days ago, Nelson Mandela, the 71-year-old deputy president of the African National Congress, was immediately welcomed by adoring throngs.

Yesterday's truncated trip to Northern California, which included a short stop at the Oakland Airport and a visit to the sun-drenched Oakland Coliseum, was no different.

After a rousing, dancing introduction from Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Oakland, who led the anti-apartheid movement in Congress, the "beautiful black man," as Dellums described him, walked to the centerfield podium and drank in the shouting cheers of flag-waving wellwishers.

walked through Soweto in 1980," Wilson said. "I wished that I was young again so that I could join the movement."

And if Mandela appreciated his Bay Area welcome, his audience more than echoed that sentiment.

"It definitely redirects the focus of what we all are as a people by really looking at ourselves as a united body of people rather than many peoples based in different countries with dif-

ferent struggles," said Anita Minner, a nurse practitioner from Foster City.

Okua Crone, a San Francisco anthropologist, said seeing "all the African people of the diaspora united like this is like a utopia. It's like a glimpse of the future and our freedom."

Author Angela Davis, who visited briefly with the Mandelas in Los Angeles before their arrival in the Bay Area, said she could understand how "it is that he

ploitation, expressed in vehicles like the "Stop the International Banditry" resolution passed at the "Mind of the Ghetto Conference" held in Oakland in 1963.

And he spoke of people such as Don Hopkins, now a Dellums aide; Ken Simmons, now a UC professor of Architecture; Will Ussery, now a member of the BART board of directors; Thelton Henderson, now a federal judge; and many others who used to gather to figure out methods

to link in people's minds the concepts of homegrown racism and South African apartheid.

"The history of apartheid is firmly rooted here," Cobb said. "San Francisco is internationally known, has a larger name and so forth, and therefore people feel that city should receive heads of state.

"But Oakland paid its dues. It dared to stand alone, like David in the Bible, against apartheid when others were testing the wind."